

REMARKS

Claims 1-36, 38 and 46-48 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Official Action of April 22, 2004, claims 46-48 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention for the reasons given. This withdrawal was discussed with the Examiner in a telephone conversation on September 20, 2004. Based on this conversation, claims 31-45 and 49-52 have been amended to be drawn to a system for picking up and collecting golf balls, dead leaves and paper sheets as originally claimed. New claim 53 is directed to a mobile machine for picking up golf balls, papers and leaves. No method claims are recited. It is submitted that the claimed invention is not distinct from the invention originally claimed.

New claim 49 has been inserted herein which recites the pick up and collection of golf balls, dead leaves and paper sheets. New claim 49 further recites the machine having mechanical means to pick up and store the golf balls, dead leaves and paper sheets (supported by page 3, lines 4-15 and FIG. 2). This is distinguished from the vacuum collection system of *Reed*. Claim 49 further recites the golf balls, dead leaves and paper sheets being unloaded by gravity action at a station. This supported by FIG. 4 which shows the mobile machine on an elevated platform with a container 18 beneath the platform (see also page 8, lines 22-26 and page 9, lines 13-25). Contrary thereto, *Reed* discloses a vacuum source to lift the debris from the mobile apparatus and collect the debris in a canister which is elevated above the mobile apparatus (column 9, lines 16-28 and FIGS. 2 and 3).

It is submitted that *Reed* does not disclose all of the features of the claimed invention and the present invention is not anticipated by *Reed*. It is further submitted that none of the other cited references suggest nor disclose these features or the other recited structure of claim 49. Even if combined in any manner, the references do not disclose the mobile machine used in a golf practice without interrupting the players, having the mechanical means to pick up the golf balls, leaves and papers, storing these on board, following a random

path back to a station to recharge the power source and to unload the golf balls, leaves and papers by gravity action.

Claims 37, 39-45 have been amended to depend from new claim 49.

With respect to amended claim 39, the ramps connect to a platform on which the mobile machine rests and a recovery bowl is disposed under the platform. The ramps of *Reed* (column 6, lines 22-25) are merely a beveled edge to enable the mobile machine to enter and exit from the cabinet. The ramps do not connect to an elevated platform in which the mobile machine is disposed to empty the container into a recovery bowl under the mobile machine and to reach the recharging station (page 8, lines 22-26). The configuration of the ramp and the elevated platform is not obvious.

The applicant is unable to identify any fixed rails within the station of the system of *Reed*. The side brushes of claim 42 are not for brushing the edges of carpet or any other items but are to guide the mobile machine to the recharging station (page 9, lines 1-12).

Regarding claim 44, the recharging means and the unloading means are coupled on the platform and are not merely within the housing as disclosed by *Reed*.

Concerning claim 45, *VanGinhoven et al* do not disclose nor suggest flexible discs but rather disclose a brush with bristles. Bristles are unable to pick up an object the size and weight of a golf ball.

New claim 52 recites the mechanical means being a driven rotating flexible disc system. This is disclosed on page 3, lines 9-10 and FIG. 2.

New claim 53 has been inserted herein to more fully protect the novelty of the present invention. This claim recites the driven rotating means to pick up golf balls, papers and leaves for temporary storage in the machine and gravity means for emptying the machine. As discussed above, the cited prior art does not have the driven rotary pick up means and the gravity emptying means.

It is further submitted that golf balls are too heavy and too large in diameter to be picked up by vacuum or bristle brushes as proposed by the Examiner in the cited references. This would especially be true if the golf balls were not directly centered under the vacuum intake, as would frequently occur.

In view of the above, allowance of claims 37, 39-45 and 49-53 are respectfully requested.

It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, she is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Sep 21, 2004

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